



## CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON

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March 14, 2012

Rep. Paul Opsommer, Chair  
House Transportation Committee

Re: HB5304

Dear Rep. Opsommer and Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of the Village of Clarkston located in Oakland County, I am here to express our complete opposition to HB5304. There are several reasons why, but most important is not being able to provide quick and efficient service to our residents.

Snow removal, road ice and salting are immediate. When our residents leave for work their roads are clear. When right-of-way trees need trimming or removal, it's immediate. The city of Clarkston has no pot holes. Crack filling is scheduled on a regular basis. Road signs knocked down are replaced, if not the same day, early the next morning.

The Road Commission for Oakland County openly acknowledges they cannot possibly provide our level of service. According to Tom Nochell, Director of Operations, if the RCOC had to absorb any additional communities for maintenance they could not possibly do so. In fact, the magnitude of the problem is such that they currently contract County road maintenance out to several communities in Oakland County including the Cities of Southfield and Novi and Bloomfield Township.

A few facts: the Road Commission's operating revenue today is the same as 2002; their current 417 employees is at the same level as the mid 60's; their truck fleet average age is 5 years ; Act 51 revenues continue to drop at an accelerated rate, in fact only 57% of their revenues come from Act 51.

Most significantly, our measly \$46,000 wouldn't even be noticed and their cost to absorb our operation would exceed that amount.

No one can provide service more efficiently, more quickly and effectively than local Government. I say this with nearly 30 years experience operating and providing public service as both Township Supervisor and City Manager.

HB5304 will not provide the expectation intended, but rather public consternation, dissatisfaction, loss of local control and the public's trust

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Ritter, City Manager  
City of the Village of Clarkston